

Sustainability Commission Meeting October 10, 2016

Meeting called to order at 5:36pm by Chairperson Erik Zemljic

Roll Call: Rick Hawksley, Nadine Gomez, Ann Gilmore, Erik Zemljic and Julie Morris.

Staff: Suzanne Stemnock, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Guests: Judy Nelson, Resident, 330 Whetstone Dr.
Cole Cottier, Kent State University
Jordan Priddy, Kent State University
Vannah Williams, Kent State University

Review of Meeting Summary Reports of September 12, 2016:

Mr. Hawksley made a motion to approve the summary report from September. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gomez and was approved with 5-0.

Public Comment

None

NEW BUSINESS

It was requested that the Commission move one new business to the top of the agenda since there are speakers from Kent State University in attendance for this topic.

Mr. Zemljic's students, Mr. Cottier, Ms. Priddy, and Ms. Williams, were in attendance to discuss their projects to increase recycling at both residential and commercial properties. The students questioned the Commission about the current recycling program. Ms. Priddy also questioned how residents were notified about the new recycling program and how multi-family units recycle. Mr. Zemljic questioned if anyone has heard of any issues with the plan. Mr. Hawksley stated he has heard that there may have been some contamination issues. Mrs. Morris explained that there were some concerns over the aesthetics of the bins. Mr. Cottier explained that the next step in the project will be to interview residents. He then asked the Commission to explain dual versus single stream recycling. Mr. Zemljic explained that after more information has been gathered from the interviews, the students will concentrate on a topic to gather more data through surveying property owners. The Commission discussed various methods to get information to the public, whether it's in the water bill or a separate mailer. Ms. Nelson shared her experience with questioning a local business on their recycling process. Ms. Williams expressed her ideas for possible incentives to get employees to recycle at the commercial properties. The Commission then discussed recycling offered to the consumers inside businesses as well. Mr. Zemljic also shared his thoughts on dual versus single stream recycling and the residents' participation in that process. He notified the Commission that he would try to provide an update on the students' progress at the next meeting.

Next, Mrs. Gilmore explained that the rain barrel workshop at the City has been postponed because there is no one to lead the workshop currently. She wanted to see if the Commission had interest in taking over teaching the workshop. Mr. Hawksley thought it would be a good idea to hold a worm composting workshop with the old recycling bins this Fall and a rain barrel workshop in the Spring.

**Sustainability Commission Meeting Summary
October 10, 2016**

The Commission is interested in managing the workshop so Mrs. Gilmore will contact the Service Department. She will update the Commission at the next meeting. Mr. Hawksley will also make his old recycle bin into a compost bin and share the results with the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

The Commission agreed to discuss the survey at the next meeting when they have all had the chance to review the results.

Next, Mrs. Gilmore and Mrs. Morris shared the information they compiled on plastic bags including the ideas the Commission had discussed at previous meetings. Mrs. Morris also shared that she has reached out to Kent State University Sustainability Department as well. They discussed contacting cities that have implemented a ban already. Mr. Zemljic shared that he could also include questions about plastic bags on his students' recycling surveys. The Commission agreed they should provide Council with the preliminary information they have gathered at their next Committee meeting.

The Commission discussed the deadline for the Spring issue of the Tree City Bulletin. They agreed to bring ideas to the next meeting for possible topics.

Mr. Hawksley shared that both the Portage Foundation and Kent Environmental Council have released their environmental grant applications. Mrs. Morris also shared a sustainability grant from Kent State University. They discussed the deadlines of the grants, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants. The Commission discussed the possibility of applying for a grant for the bag share program. Mr. Hawksley will look into some legal questions concerning the requirements and Mrs. Gilmore will look over the applications.

Next, the Commission discussed some of the feedback they received at the Haymaker Farmers' Market in September. The Commission agreed that they would attend the November 5th Market if possible.

Finally, the Commission briefly discussed the current utica well reports and a map of injection wells in Ohio. The Commission confirmed that there had been no changes in Portage County since their last meeting. The Commission agreed there are still no real concerns at this time.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

NEXT MEETING

November 14, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Gomez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Morris and was approved by a 5-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.